

## MCs With Less Than a 50 cc Engine Displacement

**New Policy**

Motorcycles (MCs) with less than 7,500 miles that are 2006 year model and newer, with an engine displacement of less than 50 cubic centimeters (cc), and an emissions label indicating the motorcycle meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for on-highway use should **not** be refused registration based on the 49-state refusal of registration for noncomplying vehicle guidelines.

**Procedures**

Use the following chart to determine a motorcycle's eligibility for on-highway registration:

<i>If the motorcycle is a ...</i>	<i>then the motorcycle...</i>
new motorcycle submitted on an Application for Registration of New Vehicle (REG 397), 1977 year model and older,	<b>may</b> be registered for on-highway use.
1978 year model and newer with an emissions label indicating it meets U.S. EPA <b>and</b> California standards for on-highway use <b>or</b> California standards only for on-highway use,	
1978 year model and newer with an emissions label indicating off-road or off-highway use only,	<b>may not</b> be registered for on-highway use.
1978 year model and newer with an engine displacement of 50 cc and larger without an emissions label,	
1978 through 1981 year models, with an engine displacement of 50 cc and larger and an emissions label indicating it meets U.S. EPA standards only,	<b>may</b> be registered for on-highway use ( <i>California Code of Regulations</i> , Title 13 §1958(d)).
1982 year model and newer with an engine displacement of 50 cc and larger and an emissions label indicating it meets U.S. EPA standards only,	<b>may</b> be registered for on-highway use, unless it has less than 7,500 miles on the odometer (49-state refusal).
2005 year model and older with an engine displacement of less than 50 cc,	<b>may</b> be registered for on-highway use.

**Procedures, *continued***

<i>If the motorcycle is a ...</i>	<i>then the motorcycle...</i>
2006 year model and newer with an engine displacement of less than 50 cc with an emissions label indicating it meets U.S. EPA standards for on-highway use,	<b>may</b> be registered for on-highway use.
2006 year model and newer with an engine displacement of less than 50 cc <b>without</b> a U.S. EPA emissions label,	<b>may not</b> be registered for on-highway use.
specially constructed (SPCNS) vehicle,	<b>may</b> be registered for on-highway use, if the motorcycle meets the definition of SPCNS ( <i>California Vehicle Code</i> §580).

**Background**


Clarification was received from the California Air Resources Board (ARB) regarding registration requirements for motorcycles with an engine size of less than 50 cc. Currently, there are no specific California emission standards for these types of vehicles.

**Distribution**

Notification that this memo is available online, at **www.dmv.ca.gov** under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated E-mail Alert System in August 2012.

**Contact**

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section, at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.



STACY COCKRUM, Deputy Director  
Communication Programs Division